

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, based on this amendment and these following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claims 42 and 43 remain in this case. Claim 42 is amended. Claim 44 is canceled.

Claims 42 through 44 were rejected under §101 as claiming the same invention of claims 1, 2, 4, and 9 through 11 of U.S. Patent No. 5,557,612.

Claim 42 is amended to overcome the double patenting rejection. Claim 44 is canceled.

Amended claim 42 now recites a method of informing a central unit of transmission requirements of a remote unit, in which the method operates according to at least two separate modes. In a normal polled transmission mode, the method requires the step of transmitting a communication access request from a selected first remote unit to the central unit during a selected symbol period in a sequence; in this case, the communication access request does not include a unique remote unit identifier identifies the transmitting remote unit. In response to receiving a command from the central unit indicating that a fast access transmission mode is available, the claimed method now requires that the selected first remote transmit the communication access request during any of the plurality of symbol periods in the sequence; but in this case, the request comprises a unique remote unit identifier that identifies the selected first remote unit.

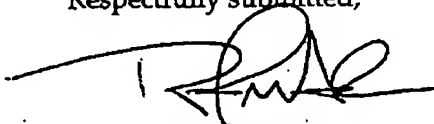
Applicants submit that the specification of this application clearly supports the amendment to claim 42.¹ No new matter is therefore presented.

Applicants further submit that the method of claims 42 and 43 is now distinct over the claims in the asserted U.S. Patent No. 5,557,612. Applicants therefore submit that this amendment overcomes the double patenting rejection.

Applicants further respectfully submit that amended claim 42 and its dependent claim 43 are novel and patentably distinct over the prior art of record in this case.

For these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims now in this case are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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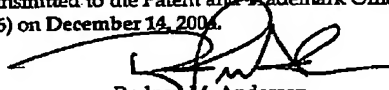
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¹ See substitute specification of S.N. 10/052,194, at page 25, lines 19 through 23; page 26, lines 21 through 35.